

did you know?

The Yellow-billed cuckoo is a fascinating bird in decline in the western United States.

Here are some fun facts about the species.

6

Most young cuckoos leave the nest on day 6. They can't fly yet, but climb through the canopy.

30

Most cuckoo pairs are monogamous, but about 30% of nests have unrelated helper males also feeding the young.

11

Yellow-billed cuckoos usually raise their own young, but have laid eggs in nests of at least 11 different kinds of birds.

Fast Food

Caterpillars and katydids are what cuckoos like to eat most, but they'll catch tree frogs and grasshoppers to use as fast food for their young.



Photo Credit: Mark Dertling, Point Blue Conservation Science

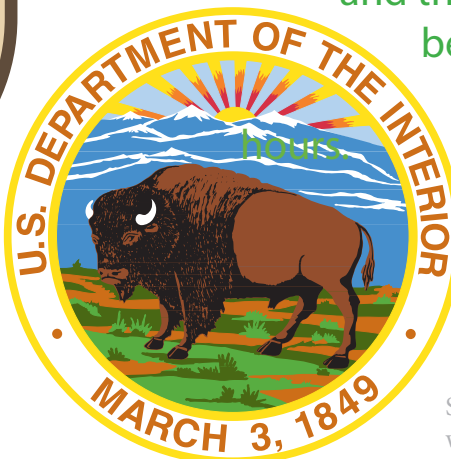
4

On the cuckoo's feet, two toes point forward and two point backwards. Most other birds have three pointing forward and one back.



2

On day five or six, the nestling's feathers burst out of their sheaths and the cuckoo chicks become fully feathered in just two hours.



1/2

Feathers make up almost half of the Yellow-billed cuckoos body weight.